

**California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley
San Joaquin County Public Forum
Lodi, CA – June 9, 2006**

Panel Presenters

Kevin Huber – Grupe Company

- The California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley (Partnership) should focus on food processing and bio-tech:
 - Food processing can provide money and sustainable jobs to the San Joaquin Valley (Valley).
 - The Valley has the agricultural resources to lead the nation in bio-tech.
 - Renewable energy should be the focus of bio-tech studies.
- The main infrastructure improvements should be made to Highway 99.
- The State needs to match local dollars for education development

Mayor Ed Chavez – City of Stockton

- Methamphetamines continue to plague the Valley:
 - The Valley needs state funds to help solve the problem.
 - The Valley needs to focus on programs that emphasize family strength as a solution to the methamphetamine problem.
- Gangs are another problem for the Valley and the Partnership needs to consider gang prevention programs.

Gordon Palmer – Stockton City Manager

- The Partnership should consider assisting San Joaquin County in developing the Arch-Sperry corridor:
 - It is an expensive project but it will help move goods in and out of the airport and port.
- The local governments in the Valley lack the resources to repair the levee system and require state and/or federal assistance.
- Enterprise Zones are essential to Stockton's financial and business success:
 - The Enterprise Zone for Stockton expires in 2008 and it should be renewed.

Luis Sanchez – Vice President, Washington Mutual

- Affordable housing is a problem for Valley residents:
 - A substantial percentage of Valley residents cannot afford a mid-priced home.
 - If the State provides incentives to the private sector, the private sector can provide incentives to people wanting to purchase a home.
 - The State should provide tax credits to those who fall outside government assistance.

Ken Cohen – Administrator, San Joaquin General Hospital

- The Valley needs to work together to find common ground for solving health care problems in the region:
 - They should find at least 6 ideas to common health care problems.
 - Areas of focus should be funding for hospitals, nurses, nursing schools and a regional system of care.
- The Valley problems won't be solved by taking from other parts of the State:
 - The State should provide extra money to the region.

Dr. Moses Elam – Physician in Chief, Kaiser Permanente

- Solving the problems of the Valley has two components: strategic thinking and strategic action.
- Health care and a healthy economy are closely related:
 - Healthy people equal a healthy workforce which equals a healthy economy.
 - When people are unemployed, people are uninsured which compromises a healthy workforce.
- Solutions to the problems:
 - Invest in schools.
 - More funding for teachers.
 - Get people back to work faster.

David Berg – Human Services for the San Joaquin County

- Methamphetamine addiction is a Valley problem:
 - There needs to be an increase in treatment facilities.
 - The Valley needs sustained funding for proactive solutions.

Phyllis Grupe – Community Partnership for Families

- Three reasons why businesses won't locate in the Valley:
 - Poor health and education.
 - Crime and violence.
 - Water issues.
- Two community programs that can help Valley residents:
 - Patch – a community service group that helps find services to those in need:
 - Poor residents lack resources to find social service programs.
 - Patch can help facilitate this research.
 - Way To Grow – school readiness program:
 - This can help kids that lack the resources or family support to prepare for school.
- The key to implementing these programs is finding leaders in the community and neighborhoods:
 - Leaders can identify children that need help and get them to the programs.

Carol Ornelas – CEO, Asociacion Campesina Lazaro Cardenas (ACLC)

- The income range for most Stockton residents is \$47,000 - \$58,000:
 - These incomes are not enough to afford housing in the area
- One goal for the Partnership should be affordable housing:
 - People should not have to commute; they should be able to live close to work.

Mark Martinez – President, Mexican American Chamber of Commerce

- Reported on Hispanic businesses in the Community:
 - Hispanic businesses are growing.
 - 4 out of 5 jobs are created from local businesses.
 - Immigration laws affect businesses at peak season.
 - Up to 1/3 of workforce maybe displaced by immigration laws:
 - This will directly impact business profits.
- Enterprise Zones are vital to the health of businesses in the Valley.

Dennis Lee – President, Central Valley Asian Chamber of Commerce

- The State should provide small business growth by providing incentives.

Trevor Atkinson – Common Ground

- Plan for growth by defining limits of growth.
- Preserve agricultural land and create high density living environments for Valley downtown areas.

Dr. Mick Founts – San Joaquin Office of Education

- Increase funding for vocational education.
- Allow flexibility for local school finances.
- Increase funding for inadequately funded mandates.

Bill Huyett – Superintendent of Schools, Lodi Unified School District

- The State needs to fulfill funding commitments for schools.
- There is a crisis in the teaching community:
 - The average age for teachers is 52; the number of people seeking teaching credentials is decreasing.
 - There needs to be more incentives to pursue a career in teaching.

Kathy Janssen – President, Ace Tomato Company

- Expand the California Grown program.
- Increase inspections at the border.
- The minimum wage should be at federal standards.
- Increase funding for vocational education programs.

Brad Lange – Owner, Lange Twins, Inc.

- Processing plants are essential to agricultural success:
 - More processing plants need to be built closer to agricultural areas.

Dr. Mel Lylte – Water Resources Coordinator, San Joaquin County

- Water problems in the Valley are numerous:
 - There needs to be a regional plan to fix the problems.
- Regulation standards for water need to be reevaluated.
- Request federal funding for mandates.
- Water issues need to be resolved efficiently.